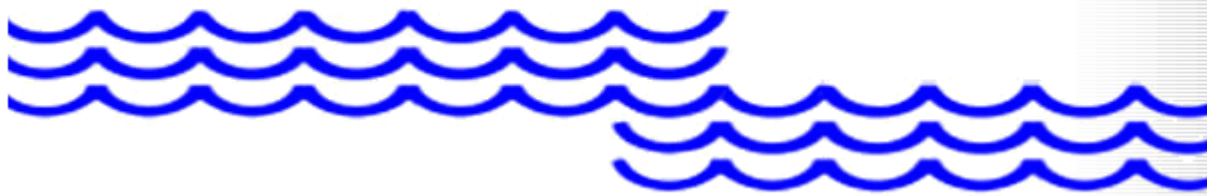


Flood Safety Awareness Week



March 12-16, 2012

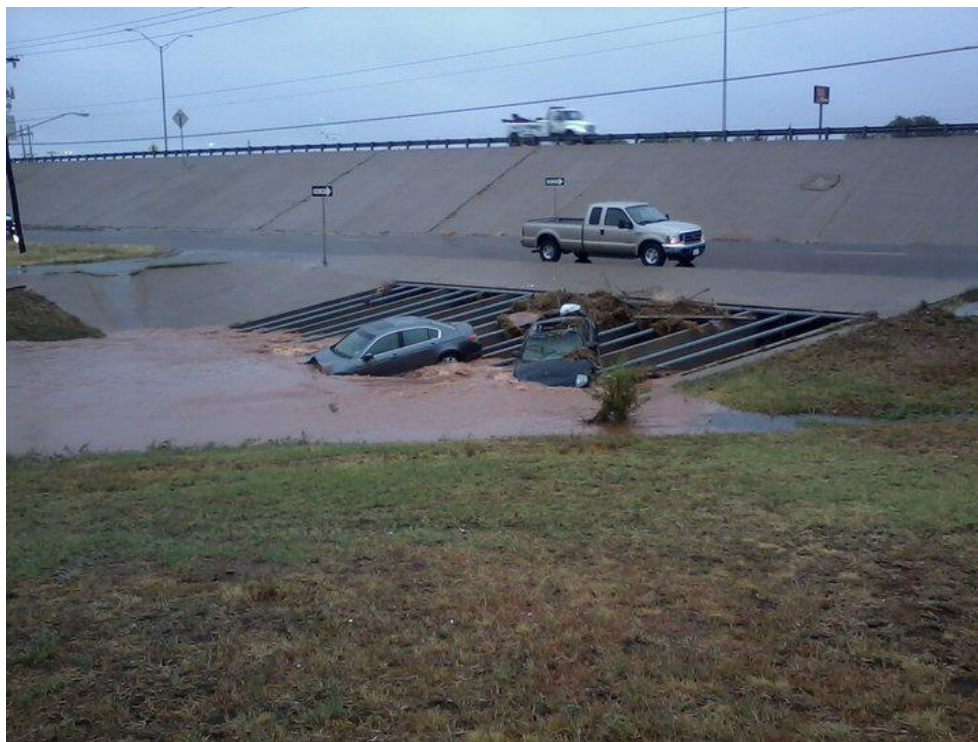
NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) has designated March 12-16, 2012, as the annual Flood Safety Awareness Week. Flooding happens somewhere in the United States or its territories nearly every day of the year. Floods have killed an average of 94 people a year over the past 30 years. The goals of Flood Safety Awareness Week are to:

1. heighten public awareness of flood and flash flood dangers,
2. inform the public about NWS forecasts, warnings and flood safety information, and
3. empower citizens to take wiser actions in order to protect their lives and property from floods.

Floods can occur any time during the year and at any time of the day. Currently, many areas across Texas are dry and are experiencing drought conditions. However, even in times of drought, rapid water rises in normally dry draws, creeks and rivers are possible due to excessive local rainfall over short periods of time. Spring and early summer seasons are favorable times for thunderstorms to develop; they can produce significant amounts of rainfall quickly and cause localized flooding. According to research by Dr. Hatim Sharif from the University of Texas at San Antonio, the state of Texas leads the nation in flood fatalities.

Extensive information about flooding and flood safety, including educational materials, videos, brochures, and news articles can be found online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/floodsafety>



During Flood Safety Awareness Week, the following topics will be highlighted:

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) is the NWS frontline solution for improving river and flood forecasting and water information to America. AHPS provides a suite of graphical and numeric products over the Internet to assist the public, community leaders and emergency managers in making better life and cost saving decisions about evacuations and movement of property before flooding occurs. AHPS broad reach extends across the range of forecasts from short-term (up to 6 hours) to long-term (out to weeks and months). AHPS provides the public with more detailed and accurate answers to the following questions:

1. How high will the river rise?
2. When will the river reach its peak water level?
3. Where will flooding occur?
4. How long will the flood last?
5. How long will drought continue? and
6. How certain is the flood/drought forecast?

Your gateway to web resources provided through AHPS begins here:

<http://water.weather.gov>



Turn Around Don't Drown

Most flood-related deaths occur in motor vehicles when people attempt to drive through flooded roads. Don't underestimate the power of flowing water across a road. The NWS has developed the flood safety slogan: Turn Around Don't Drown and hopes you will remember these words when you encounter a flooded roadway. Be especially cautious when driving at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers. Yellow warning signs which include the phrase "Turn Around, Don't Drown" are compliant with the Federal Highway Administration Regulations and are deployed on many roadways where flooding is common.



Floods, Droughts, and Other Related Phenomena.

Many parts of the nation will experience floods or flash floods this year. In other areas, drought will prevail. Hydrologic extremes have always plagued our vast nation. Tropical cyclone inland flooding, snowmelt flooding, ice jams and debris flows are just some of the flood-related phenomena that pose a threat to Americans.

Flood Insurance

Flood losses are not typically covered in homeowner insurance policies; however, flood insurance is available in communities taking part in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA's FloodSmart campaign promotes the idea that all Americans should know their flood risk and choose appropriate flood insurance. For extensive information on flood insurance, refer to:

<http://www.floodsmart.gov>

Flood Safety

The NWS, along with other government agencies and private sector partners, educates communities across the United States about flood risks and how to respond to flood threats. Knowing what to do before, during and after a flood can save lives, reduce injuries and prevent property damage.

Below is a short list of flash flood/flood safety tips:

- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards and/or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding begins or is occurring, get to higher ground and out of areas subject to flooding such as dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.
- Avoid flooded areas, especially if water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

**For local information about Flood Safety Awareness Week,
please contact the NWS office in San Angelo at 325-944-9445 and
visit our website at www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/**